



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/893,931 | 06/28/2001 | Masahide Hio | FP01-003US | 5384 |

1218 7590 07/08/2002

CASELLA & HESPOS
274 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10016

EXAMINER

GUSHI, ROSS N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 07/08/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/893,931

Applicant(s)

HIO ET AL.

Examiner

Ross N. Gushi

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoppe, Jr., ("Hoppe") in view of Endo et al. '928 ("Endo") and McKee et al. ("McKee").
3. Hoppe discloses an insulation-displacement terminal fitting (16), comprising: a base wall 54, first and second opposed side walls (53, 52) projecting from opposite sides of the base wall and defining a wire-receiving space between the side walls, each said side wall being provided with at least one V-shaped insulation-displacement portion (96, 97) projecting into the wire receiving space, at least first and second locks (99, 100) projecting into the wire-receiving space in a position spaced from the insulation displacement portions, whereby a wire (24) can be inserted into the wire-receiving space sufficiently for cutting a resin coating of the wire by projecting ends of the insulation-displacement portions and bringing a core of the wire into contact with the projecting ends of the insulation-displacement portions, and wherein the lock (99, 100) bites into at least the resin coating.
4. In Hoppe, the locks are not shown as being substantially planar. McKee discloses an insulation displacement terminal including first and second substantially planar locks (see attachment) projecting from the sidewalls. McKee does not discuss

Art Unit: 2833

the locks. Endo discusses the well known proposition that wire locks are for securing the wire in the terminal to prevent various pulling forces from pulling the wire out of the terminal (Endo col. 7, lines 45-50, col. 8, lines 1-10). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to modify the Hoppe locks as desired to have a configuration suitable for preventing unwanted separation between the terminal and the wire, including a substantially planar configuration as taught in Hoppe. The suggestion or motivation for doing so would have been to prevent unwanted separation between the terminal and the wire as taught implicitly in Hoppe and explicitly in Endo.

5. Regarding claim 10, the locks in Hoppe are aligned substantially normal to the side walls.

6. Regarding claim 11, the Hoppe locks are not inclined obliquely to project in a direction opposite from an acting direction of an external force along the longitudinal direction of the wire. McKee discloses locks inclined obliquely to project in a direction opposite from an acting direction of an external upward or lateral force and Endo discloses locks 40 (figs. 5, 6) are inclined obliquely to project in a direction opposite from an acting direction of an external force along the longitudinal direction of the wire. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to modify the Hoppe locks to be inclined obliquely to project in a direction opposite from an acting direction of an external force as taught in Endo and McKee. The suggestion or motivation for doing so would have been to satisfactorily hold the wire against a force tending to pull the wire from the terminal as taught in Endo (col. 7, lines 45-50) and as taught implicitly in McKee.

Per claim 12, the Hoppe locks project by a sufficient distance for contacting the core.

Per claim 13, the Hoppe locks and insulation displacement portions project substantially equal distances.

Regarding claim 14, the Hoppe terminal includes engaging portion 26, insulation displacement portions rearward of the engaging portions and locks 99 and 100 at the rear of the terminal.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 5/24/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. McKee is cited for teaching substantially planar locks and Hoppe and Endo are not relied on for teaching substantially planar locks. Applicant speculates regarding comparative pull out resistances of the Hoppe locks. Applicant's speculations regarding the comparative pull out resistances of the Hoppe locks are irrelevant because the rejection is based on the obviousness of modifying the Hoppe locks, not on the unmodified Hoppe terminal.

Conclusion

2. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

Art Unit: 2833

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ross Gushi whose telephone number is (703) 306-4508. If attempts to reach the examiner by phone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley, can be reached at (703) 308-2319. The phone number for the Group's facsimile is (703) 308-7766.

rng

P. Bradley
P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

FIG. 1

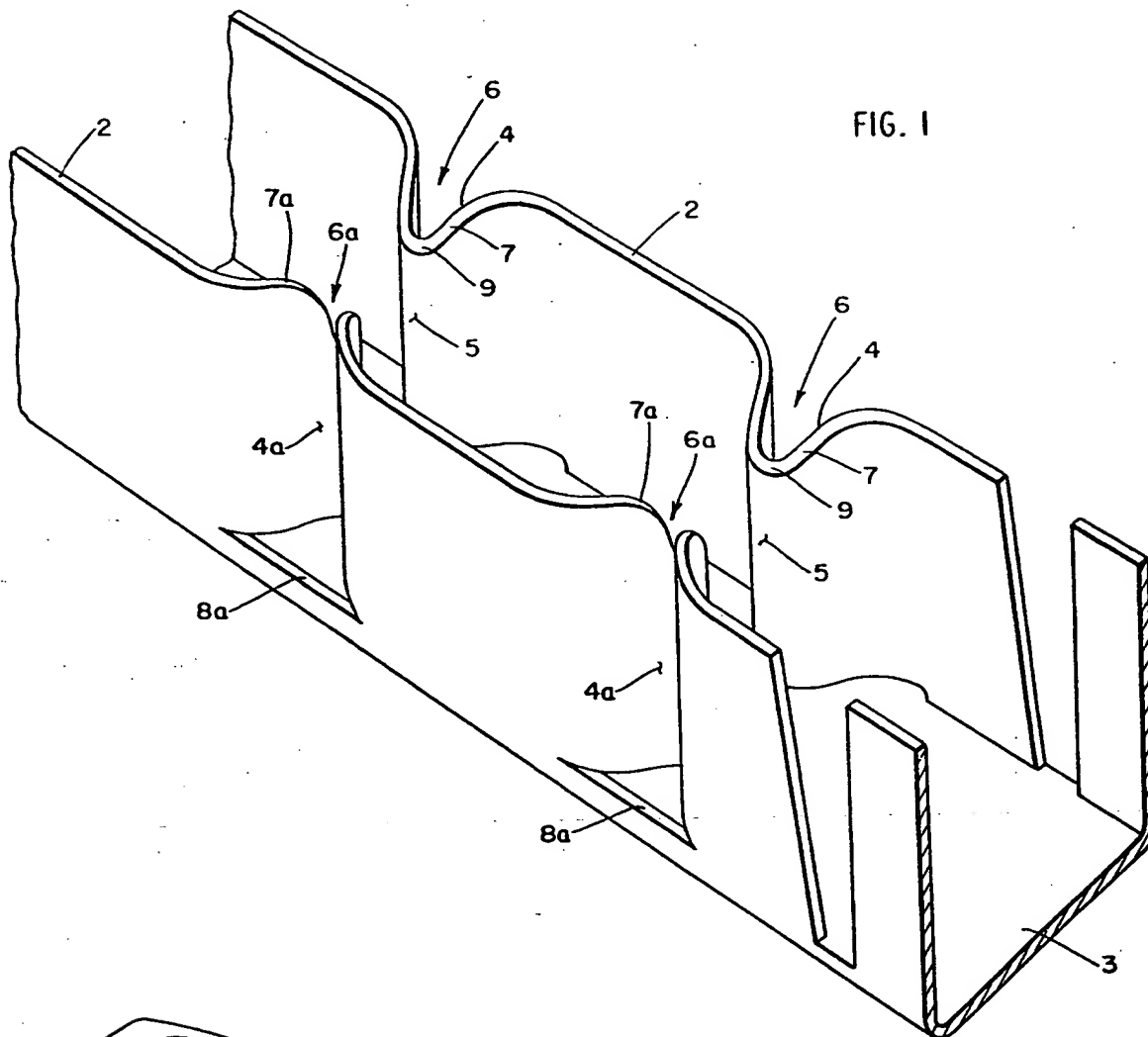


FIG. 2

